

26. A method as set forth in claim 25 wherein the step of urging sliding movement of said one fastening component relative to said other fastening component comprises contracting said one fastening component relative to said other fastening component following engagement of the fastening components.

*al  
cont*

5 27. A method as set forth in claim 26 wherein said one fastening component is elastically stretchable and retractable, said method further comprising stretching said one fastening component prior to engaging the fastening components with each other, said contracting step comprising releasing said one fastening component following engagement of the fastening components such that said one fastening component retracts relative to said other fastening component.

5 28. A method as set forth in claim 26 wherein said one fastening component is constructed of a contractible material capable of contraction from a relaxed state to a contracted state, said one fastening component being in its relaxed state upon engagement of the fastening components with each other, said contracting step comprising contracting said one fastening component toward its contracted state following engagement of the fastening components.

29. A method as set forth in claim 28 wherein said one fastening component is contractible upon the application of heat thereto.

*add*

**REMARKS**

Claims 25-29 are added herein. Claims 1-29 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

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No new matter is introduced by this amendment. Support for the new claims is found in the specification as follows: Claims 25 and 26 (page 31, line 15 - page 33, line 9 and Fig. 7 of the drawings); Claim 27 (page 32, lines 5-17); Claims 28 and 29 (page 30, line 19 - page 32, line 4).

A check is enclosed in payment of the fees required for claims added by this amendment in excess of twenty and for independent claims in excess of three.

Respectfully submitted,



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